U.S. $ 252.37 million have been exported during April-October, 2001. Silk exports have shown a declining trend due mainly because of the recessionary trend in the international market. Full achievement of the target depends on the favourable trend in the international market.

Non payment of salary to workers of NTC mills in Maharashtra

744. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20,000 workers of N.T.C. mills in Maharashtra have not received their salary and other benefits and if so, since when;

(b) what is the total amount involved; and

(c) what steps Government are going to take to safeguard the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The workers of NTC mills in Maharashtra have been paid wages up to January, 2002.

(c) Since NTC subsidiaries in Maharashtra generate about 1/4th of their wage/salary requirements through production activities, Government has been providing budgetary support to meet the shortfall in wages/salaries. Such provision is proposed to be continued during the 2-year implementation period of the rehabilitation schemes under approval of BIFR after which the units are expected to generate sufficient cash surpluses to meet such liabilities.

Closure of textile units in Punjab

745. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of textile units have been closed down in Punjab during last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposal of Government to re-open the textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) During the last five years (*i.e.* from 1-1-1997 to 31-12-2001), nine cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) have closed down in the State of Punjab.

(b) Closure of textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions, and competition from decentralised powerloom sector producing fabrics at competitive price etc.

(c) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Out of the 9 cotton / man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) closed during the last five years, one i.e. Punjab Spinning & Weaving Mill is registered with BIFR as on 31-10-2001. The status of this mills under BIFR is Winding UP recommended under section 20(1) of SICA, 1985.

Sale of surplus land under the rehabilitation proposals of NTC

746. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any time for sale of surplus lands identified and assets enunciated in the rehabilitation proposals of the sick textile units under National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons there-for;

(d) the number of sick units decided to be folded up through disinvestments of assets; and

(e) the estimated amount to be generated by the sale of assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The disposal of surplus land of NTC mills is part of rehabilitation schemes for eight sick subsidiaries of NTC. After DRS is approved by BIFR, action will be taken as per directions of BIFR.